

Container Company. Ralph, his wife Luella, and his three children have made an incredible contribution to the Lancaster area through their business accomplishments. Ralph served a term as president of the National Honey Packers & Dealers and in 1992, was recognized as Pennsylvania Entrepreneur of the Year by Entrepreneur Magazine. Additionally, the Gamberes established the Gamber Foundation, a resource to support local charities and nonprofit organizations, honeybee research, and scholarships for the children of Dutch Gold Honey employees.

Ralph Gamber's legacy, however, is not limited to his honey-related work. His life's worth of community and family focus is what earns him particular attention on Flag Day. To Ralph, work was an extension of family togetherness and he firmly believed that when families pray together, they stay together. Evidently, a family that stays together is one that can also share in building a unique, successful business. Ralph would count his 66-year marriage, three children, eight grandchildren, and nine-great-grandchildren among his greatest accomplishments. He was involved with the Salvation Army and helped to found his local fire company. He was a veteran of the Second World War and, with a strong connection to his church, Ralph acted as Sunday school superintendent for many years, was a member of his church council, and later chaired the church's stewardship committee. Throughout his life and through his livelihood, Ralph has demonstrated his commitment to the community and people he cared so much about. I share his story today because I believe it is worthy of our admiration and it is evidence of how the American Dream continues to inspire us.

My thoughts will be with the family and friends of Ralph Gamber this Flag Day. When our national banner is raised over Dutch Gold Honey, it will be a reminder to all who see it that love, perseverance, and community are the keys to success in family and in life.●

AMERICA: A NATION OF IMMIGRANTS

● Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, each year the American Immigration Law Foundation and the American Immigration Lawyers Association sponsor a national writing contest on immigration. Thousands of fifth-grade students from across the country participate in the competition, responding to the statement, "Why I'm Glad America is a Nation of Immigrants."

These essays remind us that it is of great importance that we not forget our rich history and heritage as a nation of immigrants. Continued immigration is part of our national well-being, our identity as a nation, and our strength in today's world.

I had the privilege of serving as one of the judges for this year's contest,

and was very impressed by the young writers. In their essays, the students showed great pride in our Nation's diversity and its immigrant heritage, and many told the story of their own family's immigration.

I am pleased to announce that this year's winner is a Massachusetts resident, Nicole Florio, a fifth-grade student in Framingham, MA. In her poem, "Why Am I Glad," Nicole explores the value of her friends' cultures and how their diversity enhances her life. She describes the diverse traditions and treasures of her friends, from Ceilidh's Irish step-dancing to Anastasia's nesting dolls. In the final stanza, Nicole notes how she herself is a product of immigrants, as all of us are, and that without immigration, "there would be no me!"

Other students honored for their creative essays were Mike Duffy of Sarasota, FL, Emily Friedman of Los Angeles, CA, Christina Jundt of Norcross, GA, and Ilana Peña of North Miami Beach, FL.

I believe that these award-winning essays in the "Celebrate America" contest will be of interest to all of us in the Senate, and ask that they be printed in the RECORD.

The essays follow.

WHY AM I GLAD AMERICA IS A NATION OF IMMIGRANTS

(By Nicole Florio, Hemenway Elementary School, Framingham, MA, Grand Prize Winner)

People come to America from many different places, I have lots of friends of many different races. Ceilidh's from Ireland, we have loads of fun, she taught me Irish step-dancing we dance till day is done! Jessica's from Colombia, she speaks Spanish, to speak two languages is my wish.

Anastasia is from Russia, I adore her nesting dolls, I looked for them in all of the malls.

Cara and Cady are from China, Cady's grandma grows bamboo. They both love Chinese New Year and I do too!

Murat is from Turkey, his wedding I did love, when we left the fireworks blasted 'bove!

Nicole is from Israel, she is thirteen. When she had her Bat Mitzvah she looked like a queen!

If I didn't have these friends, how boring life would be! I'm glad America has immigrants as you can plainly see.

Mom's family is from Poland, Dad's from Italy, if my grandparents didn't come there would be no me!

Based on a true story!

WHY I AM GLAD AMERICA IS A NATION OF IMMIGRANTS

(By Mike Duffy, Pine View Elementary, Sarasota, FL, Runner-Up)

I am glad America is a nation of immigrants. When the original immigrants came to America, they came here seeking freedom of expression, religious freedom, and freedom from oppression. This helped to form our constitution, which gives us those same equal rights today.

The diverseness of the people who came here for opportunities brought about a culture that the world had not previously seen before. It also gave us ideas that would have never come to light otherwise.

Living with other cultures teaches us new things and makes us more tolerant and understanding of our fellow man. The education we gave each other makes us more open to new ideas and better technology. Our nation is the strongest and best because of our unity.

In America all religions are practiced freely. Our different beliefs are acknowledged and respected. This makes us strong and proud. Our way of life is often challenged though. Freedom is always at stake from those who wish to dominate. Brave immigrants past and present, who took the chance of coming here for a better life; help keep our country free and strong. Once they have enjoyed the freedom we have, they are willing to stand up and fight to keep that freedom.

Mutual respect, which all people can enjoy here in this country, is why we (all cultures) come together so readily, when any part of our nation is in trouble. It is living proof that despite our differences we are all Americans at heart.

A NATION OF IMMIGRANTS

(By Emily Friedman, Stephen S. Wise Elementary, Los Angeles, CA, AILA Southern California Chapter Contest Winner)

In early September my teachers asked, "Do you think America is a melting pot or a salad bowl?" After thinking about it, I decided America is neither. America is not like a melting pot because all the cultures do not blend together and become unnoticeable. However, America is not a salad bowl because cultures do not stay as distinct as lettuce and cucumbers in a salad. I thought America should be described as a chunky, minestrone soup. The ingredients stay distinct, but as the soup simmers, the ingredients like cultures interact and blend with each other.

The different spices and vegetables that go into minestrone soup are like the immigrants from different places around the world. The immigrants spice up the soup and make it flavorful. With the exception of Native Americans, we were all once immigrants. The best secret of a minestrone soup is that it never stays the same. As immigrants come from all over the world, they contribute to the taste of the soup. They bring their language, traditions, foods and customs and their various dreams for a better life for freedom and opportunity. They also add their ideas for a better America and make contributions to our society.

I am proud to live in a country where people can be free and where everyone can contribute. I am glad America is a nation of immigrants because without them, America wouldn't be a chunky bowl of delicious minestrone soup.

AMERICA—A NATION OF IMMIGRANTS

(By Christina Jundt, Simpson Elementary School, Norcross, GA, AILA Atlanta Chapter Contest Winner)

As Immigrants traveled over the rolling sea, checked in at Ellis Island, suffered

through minimum wage jobs, and endured criticism from the people around them, they had no idea they would change American people, and America itself forever.

America is like a giant mosaic—the most beautiful in the world. If the mosaic was all one color, the beauty would be gone. The pieces are all beautiful in their own way. Not one piece is more important than another. Not one piece shines more brightly than another. The mosaic is perfect, and without Immigrants, this could not have been accomplished. So much of our lives would be different if it wasn't for the diverse nationalities, and the Immigrants that traveled from those nations. Every time you eat a plate of spaghetti, think of an Italian Immigrant. Every time you bite into a bar of chocolate, think of a Mexican Immigrant. Every time you look around your community, and see people nationalities, who have different religions, who have different customs, think of an Immigrant who bravely traveled from their hometown, to bring us those unique ways of life. These Immigrants enriched and influenced our lives in so many positive ways.

WHY I'M GLAD AMERICA IS A NATION OF IMMIGRANTS

(By Ilana Peña, Oaks Elementary School, North Miami Beach, FL, AILA Southern Florida Chapter Contest Winner)

Tomatoes, cucumbers, lettuce . . . Russians, Cubans, Asians . . . This is America, a nation of immigrants. Many people say America is a melting pot, everybody coming from different nations but melting into America. We are all proud to be Americans, but I think of us not as a melting pot, but as a salad bowl.

A salad bowl is made up of different vegetables, each with its own distinct flavor. When you take a bite, you still taste each individual vegetable, but mixed all together, the salad is delicious. Each American has his own distinct identity yet mixes together to create our wonderful America, a country made up of different people, with different cultures and backgrounds.

Being a country of immigrants makes America a dynamic place to live. We are rich with unique cultures. I have a friend whose family comes from India, and I am fascinated by her stories about her family's home country. Because of immigrants, there are different foods in our country, different clothing, different songs, and different ways of dancing.

My father and his family came from Cuba, and my mother's family came from Russia. I am grateful that my country welcomed them here in the United States of America. On our Thanksgiving table is not only the traditional turkey, but frijoles negros, and kugel pudding. It makes me realize what a remarkable country I live in, as we all, Jews and Cubans, sit around a long table with the salad in the center representing our country, and share our cultures.●

TRIBUTE TO DAN KUNSMAN

● Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I rise today to say good-bye to a good friend who has worked with me for over 10 years.

Dan Kunsman has been my Communications Director for the last eight years, adding to some 3 years of assisting me on the House side when I was the lone congressman from Wyoming. Also a native son of Wyoming, his work for me and the great State extends deeply into the heart and soul of the

West and will continue long into the future.

Dan joined my office in the U.S. House of Representatives in 1991 right out of school. Dan did a great job for me and was promoted to Communications Director when I was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1994.

Dan has not only been valuable in Washington, he was also a crucial part of three, statewide, victorious campaigns. He also took time from our efforts on sabbatical to assist with the success of my good friend and colleague, Senator ENZI, on his initial election effort in 1996.

We're part of a team, my staff and I. Along with my wife, Susan, we feel strongly bound to service for the people of Wyoming. As we say in the West, Dan's a good hand. That's a high compliment. It means that he's part of the team, reliable in a storm or any circumstance. In the House, Senate and on the campaign trail, Dan has proved to be one of the brightest and most effective public policy communicators and political strategists in Wyoming and Washington.

Dan has decided to join Brimmer Communications and will lead a new Washington, DC office for the public relations firm based in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. While it's always hard to see good people move on, in this case, I'm glad Dan plans to go to a strong firm at home and stay close to Wyoming people.

I'm not always the best at saying good-bye. I don't like to say it. So I'll just say see you, and I hope that's true. I'll look forward to it.

To our friend, Dan, I wish him and his wife, Isabel, the best of luck, and I know the Senate does as well.●

COMMEMORATION OF KING KAMEHAMEHA I

● Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I rise today in commemoration of the birthday of Hawaii's first monarch, King Kamehameha I. More than two centuries since his birth, Kamehameha is a legendary, indeed, mythical figure renowned worldwide for his bravery and martial brilliance. He commands the respect of Hawaii's people for his wise and just leadership, and his accomplishments continue to influence and govern Hawaii today.

Historically, Kamehameha is notable because of his brilliance as a military strategist and political leader. Kamehameha adapted Western innovation, weaponry, and science to gain a decisive advantage in his drive to unify the Hawaiian Islands. For Native Hawaiians and the people of Hawaii, Kamehameha is beloved for his concern and attention to the well-being of his subjects and for his commitment to do what was just and right for the people.

Kamehameha's wisdom, even more than his strength, stature, and daring, is his greatest and most enduring legacy for Hawaii's indigenous peoples—the Native Hawaiians, the people of Ha-

waii, and all students of history. Mamalohoe, the Law of the Splintered Paddle, is the most prominent example of Kamehameha as a wise and just leader. Mamalohoe is Hawaii's first Bill of Rights protecting the common people from assault, and it is still part of our State's constitution.

One hundred and ninety years ago, in the summer of 1812, Kamehameha returned to the Kona Coast. Having unified the islands and established peace and stability, Kamehameha worked to build prosperity for his people by increasing agricultural production and foreign trade.

The first observance of a day honoring King Kamehameha was proclaimed by King Kamehameha V on June 11, 1872, in the Kingdom of Hawaii. It remains an annual holiday in the State of Hawaii. This year marks the 130th anniversary of the only holiday in the United States created to honor a once-reigning monarch in the only state that was once a kingdom, the State of Hawaii.●

MISSION OF PEACE HOUSING COUNSELING AGENCY

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I have come today to ask the Senate to join with me in paying tribute to the Mission of Peace Housing Counseling Agency which is located in the City of Flint, in my home state of Michigan.

Home ownership has long been one of the best ways for individuals and families to acquire capital, build equity and secure entry into the middle class. Mission of Peace Housing Counseling Agency was founded in 1997 by Reverend Elmira Smith-Vincent to assist those who desire to own their own home thereby gaining further control over their financial futures. As a real estate agent, Reverend Smith-Vincent saw a need to educate people and provide them with the skills needed to purchase a home. A faith-based, non profit agency, Mission of Peace Housing Counseling Agency provides assistance to families and individuals in the skills needed to purchase a home.

Since its inception, Mission of Peace Housing Counseling Agency has developed strong working relationships with the Department of Housing and Urban Development, The Fannie Mae Corporation, the Fannie Mae Foundation, the United States Department of the Treasury, the Federal Reserve Bank, area banks and lenders, local governments, schools, and the faith-based community. These strong relationships have enabled the Mission of Peace Housing Counseling Agency to have accomplished many great things since its inception only five years ago.

In 2001, they formed a partnership with Fannie Mae to offer the Mission of Peace Faith-Based Home ownership Initiative. As well, they implemented with great success an Individual Development Account program which allows participants to open an account at the Fifth Third Bank to save toward the